

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for producing L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine, which comprises culturing ~~the *Escherichia* bacterium as defined in any one of claim 1 to 4~~ an *Escherichia* bacterium, which is L-isoleucine auxotrophic and has ability to produce L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine, in a medium containing L-isoleucine, to produce and accumulate L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine in a culture and collecting L-glutamic acid, L-proline or L-arginine from the culture.

6. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is deficient in any of L-isoleucine biosynthetic enzyme activities.

7. (New) The method according to Claim 6, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is deficient in threonine deaminase activity.

8. (New) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the *Escherichia* bacterium is *Escherichia coli*.